

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (New) A base for supporting a strainer or colander above a sink/basin surface, said base comprising:

a body portion having an upper end and a lower end, said lower end of said body portion being placeable on the sink/basin surface, the strainer or colander being placeable on said upper end of said body portion, said upper end being spaced a predetermined distance apart from said lower end; and

at least one aperture provided through said body portion for allowing water to flow freely therethrough at all times;

a passageway from said upper end to said at least one aperture, said water flowing freely from the strainer or colander, through said passageway and then through said at least one aperture; and

wherein said body portion is a separate member from the strainer or colander.

6. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is formed from at least two apertures.

7. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is a plurality of spaced apart apertures in said upper end.

8. (New) A base as defined in claim 7, wherein said apertures are concave surfaces which alternate with convex surfaces and the strainer or colander sits on said convex surfaces.
9. (New) A base as defined in claim 7, wherein said upper end has flat surfaces between said apertures.
10. (New) A base as defined in claim 7, wherein said apertures are equi-distantly spaced from one another.
11. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is a plurality of spaced apart apertures in said lower end.
12. (New) A base as defined in claim 11, wherein said apertures are concave surfaces which alternate with convex surfaces and said body portion contacts the surface of the sink/basin at said convex surfaces.
13. (New) A base as defined in claim 11, wherein said lower end has flat surfaces between said apertures.
14. (New) A base as defined in claim 11, wherein said apertures are equi-distantly spaced from one another.

15. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is a plurality of spaced apart apertures in said upper end and a plurality of spaced apart apertures in said lower end.

16. (New) A base as defined in claim 15, wherein said apertures in said upper end are concave surfaces which alternate with convex surfaces and the strainer or colander sits on said convex surfaces; and

and wherein said apertures in said lower end are concave surfaces which alternate with convex surfaces and said body portion contacts the surface of the sink/basin at said convex surfaces.

17. (New) A base as defined in claim 15, wherein said upper end has flat surfaces between said apertures in said upper end, and said lower end has flat surfaces between said apertures in said lower end.

18. (New) A base as defined in claim 15, wherein said apertures in said upper end are equi-distantly spaced from one another and said apertures in said lower end are equi-distantly spaced from one another.

19. (New) A base as defined in claim 15, wherein said apertures in said upper end are not aligned with said apertures in said lower end.

20. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said at least one aperture is formed by said upper end, said lower end and a plurality of ribs which space adjoining apertures apart from each other.
21. (New) A base as defined in claim 20, wherein said ribs are generally perpendicular to said upper end and said lower end.
22. (New) A base as defined in claim 20, wherein said ribs join with said upper end at an upper joint defined by spaced apart locations and join with said lower end at a lower joint defined by spaced apart locations, said upper joint of each respective rib being non-aligned with said lower joint of each respective rib.
23. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said predetermined height of said body portion from said upper end to said lower end is at least 1.1 inches.
24. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said lower end of said body portion has a dimension which is greater than a dimension of said upper end of said body portion.
25. (New) A base as defined in claim 24, wherein said dimension of said upper end is defined by a diameter of which is greater than 3.0 inches, and said dimension of said lower end of said body portion is defined by a diameter which is greater than 3.25 inches.

26. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said upper end is defined by a diameter of which is greater than 3.0 inches, and said lower end of said body portion is defined by a diameter which is greater than 3.25 inches.
27. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said body portion is formed from food grade material.
28. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said body portion is formed from non-food grade material.
29. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said body portion is formed from plastic.
30. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said body portion is formed from metal.
31. (New) A base as defined in claim 5, wherein said body portion is formed from wood.